

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Brief Description of the Drawings section of the present application, on page 6, lines 14 - 21, with the following:

--Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic, plan view of a cutting unit according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the cutting unit; ~~and~~

Fig. 3 is a side-elevational view of a subframe pivotably mounted in a frame of a folder; and

Fig. 4 is a side-elevational view of one particular embodiment of the drive mechanism shown in Fig. 1.--

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 7, line 12, to page 8, line 3, with the following paragraph:

--The cylinders 2, 3 are oriented at an angle α to the ribbon 1, and the cylinders 2, 3 are driven or rotated by drives 5, 5' at a speed proportional to a speed of the ribbon 1. As the cylinders rotate 2, 3, a point of contact (i.e. a point of cutting) between the cylinders 2, 3 travels across a width of the ribbon 1 and also in a direction of travel 7 of the ribbon 1 due to helical configuration of the cutting knife 4. In order to cut the ribbon 1 in a straight line, the

proportionality constant of rotation of the cylinders 2, 3 is chosen such the component of travel of the point of contact in the direction of travel 7 of the ribbon 1 exactly matches the speed of the ribbon 1. The drives 5, 5' are in turn controlled by a control unit 6 that may be part of the cutting unit, a folder that incorporates the cutting unit or the printing system that incorporates the cutting unit. The drives 5, 5' may be motors, gears (15, 15' of Fig. 4) driven by a motor (17, 17' of Fig. 4), a belt and pulley system, etc.. The control unit 6 is a microprocessor based control system.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, lines 1 - 3 with the following paragraph:

--In Fig. 2, the cylinders 2, 3 are oriented more parallel to the ribbon 1. Therefore the cut-to-cut length of the ribbon 1 is changed by an amount δ from that of Fig. 1, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.--